

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10
AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-15 COME-00 TRSE-00 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4091
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 6432

FODAG

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: FAO, EAID
SUBJECT: FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, SECOND SESSION

REF.: (A) STATE 80276 (B) ROME 6048 (C) STATE 84085 (D) ROME 6357

SUMMARY: CFS SESSION CENTERED ON PROPOSALS IN G-77 STATEMENT
WITH ALL SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RESOLVED BY SATISFACTORY LANGUAGE
IN REPORT OR BY REFERENCE TO OTHER MORE APPROPRIATE BODIES.
SECRETARIAT ESTIMATES ON ADEQUACY OF GLOBAL STOCKS WILL BE
BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT 1978 SESSIONS. END SUMMARY

1. DRAFTING GROUP WRAPPED UP WORK ON APRIL 18 WITH AGREEMENT
ON DRAFT REPORT THAT RESULTS IN A SATISFACTORY BALANCE,
MEETING LDC MINIMUM AIMS WHILE PRESERVING ESSENTIAL DC
POSITIONS ON ALL SUBSTANTE POINTS. DISCUSSION ON STATEMENT OF
G-77 WAS FOLED INTO DISCUSSION ON OVERALL AGENDA AND DRAFT
REPORT DISPOSES OF ALL ISSUES IN G-77 PAPER. IN FINAL PLENARY
APRIL 19 COMMITTEE ACCEPTED DRAFT REPORT WITH ONLY MINOR CHANGES.
SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION WAS AIDED BY FACT THAT DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES, LED BY UK AND U.S., MAINTAINED EFFECTIVE COOPERATION
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AND MUTAUL SUPPORT THROUGHOUT MEETING. U.S. DELEGATION TOOK
OVERALL STANCE FAVORABLE TOWARD MEANINGFUL EFFORTS TO ENHANCE
FOOD SECURITY IN LDCS WHILE AVOIDING NEW COMMITMENTS. DEL
STRESSED THAT ADMINISTRATION CURRENTLY HAS FOOD POLICIES UNDER
REVIEW, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREE-
MENT AND THAT SPECIFIC PROVISIONS THAT MIGHT GO INTO AN AGREEMENT
COULD ONLY BE DECIDED IN IWC NEGOTIATIONS.

2. DISPOSITION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN G-77 STATEMENT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

-- OBJECTIVES. COMMITTEE REEMPHASIZED COMMITMENT OF GOVERNMENTS TO OBJECTIVES CONTAINED IN FAO INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING AND IN GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENTS AND ONLY NOTED THAT OBJECTIVES SET FORTH IN G-77 STATEMENT WERE SIMILAR TO SOME OF THOSE ALREADY ACCEPTED. FRANCE SHARPLY CRITICIZED PRESENTATION OF G-77 PAPER THAT MADE MODIFIED OBJECTIVES APPEAR TO BE VERBATIM QUOTES FROM PREVIOUSLY AGREED DOCUMENTS.

-- ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FOOD PRODUCTION, COMMITTEE NOTED THIS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT FIRST SESSION AND EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH TYPES OF PROJECTS SPECIFIED IN G-77 PAPER.

-- PASSAGES ON NATIONAL STOCK POLICIES AND TARGETS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WAS PASSED OVER AS HAVING BEEN BROADLY ACCEPTED AT CFS FIRST SESSION.

-- ITEM ON GRAINS AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY G-77 PROPOSALS ON SPECIFIC PROVISIONS, WERE SUBJECT OF LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS IN BOTH PLENARY AND DRAFTING GROUP. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES STRONGLY OPPOSED ANY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN BROAD ENDORSEMENT OF NEGOTIATION IN INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL AND REJECTED DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS. FINAL REPORT REQUESTS THAT G-77 PROPOSALS BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF IWC PREPARATORY GROUP AS STATEMENT OF LDC VIEWS FOR "APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION".

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-- G-77 CALL FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF 10 MILLION TON FOOD AID TARGET WAS REFERRED TO THIRD SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID.

-- MOST COUNTRIES ACCEPTED G-77 PROPOSAL THAT DONORS PROVIDE FOOD AID TO HELP LDCS BUILD NATIONAL FOOD RESERVES. FINAL REPORT REFLECTS U.S. RESERVATION NOTING THAT NOT ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NECESSARILY NEED TO BUILD NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY RESERVE STOCKS. INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE (JONEJA) CRITICIZED U.S. POSITION AS BEING INCONSISTENT WITH U.S. RESERVES PROPOSALS IN IWC. U.S. COUNTERED THAT RESERVES PROPOSAL ENVISAGED THAT SMALLER LDCS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE OBLIGED TO HOLD THEIR OWN RESERVE SHARES.

-- FINAL LANGUAGE ON LOCATION OF RESERVES MERELY REFERS TO GUIDELINE (H) OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING.

-- ON 500,000 TON EMERGENCY RESERVE, COMMITTEE ENDORSED ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO REACH TARGET AND NOTED CFA HAD CONSIDERED SUBJECT.

-- ON NEW G-77 PROPOSAL FOR SUBTARGETS ON FERTILIZERS, IRRIGATION, STORAGE, ETC., REFTEL (B), SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WAS ALREADY WORKING ON SUCH SUBTARGETS AS PART OF PREPARATION FOR THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE STRATEGY ENABLED COMPROMISE CONCLUSION TAKING NOTE OF ONGOING WORK. G-77 CALL FOR TRADE MEASURES AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION BENEFITING LDCS WAS WATERED DOWN, AT INSISTENCE OF EC, WITH REFERENCE TO RELEVANT RE-SOLUTIONS OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

3. MOST DIFFICULT SINGLE ISSUE DURING SESSION WAS PROPOSAL FOR ADOPTION, AS FOOD SECURITY TARGET, SECRETARIAT'S ESTIMATE OF 17-18 PERCENT OF WORLD CONSUMPTION OF CEREALS AS MINIMUM SAFE LEVEL OF GLOBAL STOCKS. THIS ISSUE PROVOKED LENGTHY AND DIFFICULT PLENARY DEBATE WITH LDCS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF COMMITTEE ADOPTING 17-18 PERCENT FIGURE AS SOME FORM OF TARGET OR "BENCHMARK" FOR FUTURE WORK OF CFS WHILE DEVELOPED UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES WERE JUST AS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ADOPTION OF ANY TARGET FOR GLOBAL STOCKS AND TO SPECIFYING ANY FIGURE THAT MIGHT IMPLY SOME COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN WORLD STOCKS. G-77 SPOKESMAN (BRAZIL) TOLD MEMBER OF U.S. DELEGATION THAT PRINCIPAL AIM OF G-77 WAS TO AVOID LEAVING FAO COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY WITHOUT ANY TASK FOR FUTURE WORK RELEVANT TO STOCKS AND RESERVE QUESTIONS AND NOT TO INFLUENCE IWC NEGOTIATIONS. FOLLOWING CIRCULATION OF SEVERAL TEXTS FOR COMPROMISE CONCLUSION ON ISSUE, DRAFTING GROUP AGREED UPON FOLLOWING LANGUAGE AS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES.
(MORE)

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4092
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US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 3121

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.....SIDES. BEGIN TEXT: AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THESE ISSUES, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE FAO SECRETARIAT ESTIMATE OF A MINIMUM SAFE LEVEL OF WORLD CEREAL STOCKS HAD BEEN PREPARED SPECIFICALLY TO SERVE AS A QUANTITATIVE INDICATOR IN EVALUATING THE ADEQUACY OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STOCKS TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORLD FOOD SECURITY AS SET OUT IN THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING. THE COMMITTEE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING ADEQUATE DATA FOR THE ESTIMATIONS OF WORLD CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS. BEARING IN MIND THE FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO IT BY THE FAO CONFERENCE OF ASSESSING THE ADEQUACY OF STOCKS TO MEET THE AGREED OBJECTIVES OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY, THE COMMITTEE, PENDING FURTHER EXAMINATION, AGREED WITH THE SECRETARIAT'S ESTIMATED FIGURES AS A REASONABLE BASIS FOR ITS ASSESSMENTS. THIS ESTIMATE COULD PROVIDE THE GENERAL INDICATIVE LEVEL AGAINST WHICH THE COMMITTEE COULD UNCLASSIFIED

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MEASURE THE DATA OBTAINED ON STOCKS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUCH ASSESSMENTS; IT WOULD CARRY NO PARTICULAR COMMITMENTS AS TO THE DESIRABLE LEVEL OF STOCKS IN AN INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT. THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT COVERING SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE CEREAL SITUATION COULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD FOOD SECURITY. END TEXT.

4. COMMITTEE NOTED IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY SITUATION BUT CALLED IT FRAGILE AND WARNED AGAINST COMPLACENCY. SECRETARIAT IN COOPERATION WITH APPROPRIATE BODIES ANALYZE RELATIVELY SLOW GROWTH TRENDS FOR RICE AND SUGGEST REMEDIES. NEED FOR MORE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY IN MSA COUNTRIES, WAS STRESSED. DEL NOTED INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF SUCH ASSISTANCE IN U.S. AID PROGRAMS.

5. ON NATIONAL CEREALS STOCK POLICIES AND TARGETS, THERE WAS USUAL LDC CRITICISM OF "SOME MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES" FOR NOT ADOPTING QUANTITATIVE TARGETS. SOME SPEAKERS ARGUED THIS AMO-

UNITED TO DEFAULT OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING. U.S., CANADA, AND EC EXPLAINED THAT IF POLICIES PROVIDED FOR COVERING ALL DOMESTIC AND EXPORT NEEDS, NUMBERS WERE NEITHER NECESSARY NOR MEANINGFUL. USDEL DESCRIBED SECRETARY BERGLAND'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF WHEAT AND RIVE RESERVE PROGRAMS, CITING IT AS EXAMPLE OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO SPIRIT OF UNDERTAKING.

6. FAO GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM PRAISED BY ALL SPEAKERS. ONLY INDIA OBJECTED TO SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL FOR DERESTRICTING CERTAIN REPORTS. USDEL GAVE OUTLINE OF RECENT INSTRUCTIONS BY DEPARTMENT, -REFTEL (A), TO ALL POSTS FOR INTENSIFIED ASSISTANCE TO SYSTEM; THIS IS RECORDED IN REPORT.

7. CONSIDERATION FAO FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME CONSISTED MAINLY OF FAVORABLE REMARKS BY COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTING TO SCHEME AND STATEMENTS OF DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE BY A NUMBER OF SMALLER LDCS. THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUES AND NO REQUEST BY SECRETARIAT FOR EXTRAPLENARY MEETING OF POTENTIAL DONORS. SECRETARIAT DID ORGANIZE A SEPARATE MEETING ON TANZANINA/FAO FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM, REPORTED REFTEL (D). FURTHER MEETINGS ON COUNTRY/FAO FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS MAY CIV SCHEDULED TO COINCIDE WITH FUTURE WFS MEETINGS.

8. COMMITTEE DECIDED TO MEET AGAIN IN 1978, PREFERABLY PRIOR TO THIRD SESSION WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. EXACT TING LEFT TO DIRECTOR GENERAL.

9. DELEGATION MAINTAINED CORDIAL WORKIN CONTACT WITH OTHER KEY DELS, ESPECIALLY LDC LEADERS. GENERAL TONE OF SESSION, DESPITE PROLONGED ARGUMENTS ON G-77 STATEMENT AND OTHER NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, WAS RESTRAINE AND NEARLY DEVOID OF POLEMICS. DRAFTING GROUP FUNCTIONED SMOOTHLY, AIDED BY SECRETARIAT'S HELPFUL FORMULATION OF SUGGESTED TEXTS FOR DRAFT ON FSAS ON ON CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS, EXCEPT FOR SECRETARIAT-CIRCULATED SELF-SERVING DRAFT REPORT THAT SOUGHT CFS MANDATE FOR EXPANDED FSAS ACTIVITIES. IN DRAFTING GROUP BOTH DC AND LDC REPRESENTATIVES INSISTED ON TONING DOWN THAT SECTION SECTION TO EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR EXISTING PROGRAMS. PRIVATE TALKS INDICATE LDCS ARE LOOKING TO UPCOMING WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IN MANILE AND TO WHEAT AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL DECISIONS TO THEIR BENEFIT.

10. THE VIETNAMESE REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEE WAS QUIETLY HANDLED BY A SECRETARIAT PAPER INCLUDING THEM IN NEW LISTING OF 92 MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE. VIETNAM AT SAME TIME SAID IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF MSA COUNTRIES BUT FINAL REPORT ONLY REFERRED TO THIS AS REQUEST OF A DELEGATE AND SUGGEST REQUEST BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF THE CONCERNED AGENCY

OF THE UN SYSTEM.

11. REPORT OF SECOND SESSION OF WFC COMMITTEE WILL BE TRANSMITTED
TO BOTH FAO COUNCIL AND WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING LATER THIS
SPRING. GARDNER
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Message Attributes

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SAS ID: 2747744
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, SECOND SESSION
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